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PATENT  
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Date of Signature and Deposit: 8/4/03 John T. Pienkos  
John T. Pienkos, Reg. No. 42,997

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.: 10/001,412 Confirmation No.: 4213  
Applicant: Patrick C. Herbert et al.  
Filed: October 25, 2001  
TC/Art Unit: 2829  
Examiner: Nguyen, Vinh P.  
Docket No.: 01AB013  
Customer No.: --

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**REPLY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the first Patent Office action on the above application mailed on July 8, 2003. In that office action, the Examiner required that the Applicants elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Specifically, the Examiner advised that the Applicant should identify a species and list all claims readable thereon. The Examiner identified the following species: species of figure 1; species of figure 2; species of figure 3; species of figures 4-5; species of figures 7-8; species of figure 9; species of figures 10-11; and species of figure 12.

In response to the restriction requirement, the Applicants hereby elect the species of FIGS. 7-8, without traverse and without prejudice to the filing of any divisional application(s) concerning claims that are readable upon the unelected species.

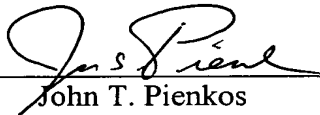
With respect to the claims that are readable upon the elected species, the Applicants submit that each of claims 1-10, 13-18, and 20-27 are readable upon the elected species.

In view of this election, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present Application. The Applicants wish to invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below if discussion with the Applicants' attorney would be of assistance to the Examiner or further the prosecution of the present Application.

No additional fees for filing this paper are believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge an additional fee due or to credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick C. Herbert et al.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
John T. Pienkos

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